

# Ways to Give Back

In Arizona, there are over 95,000 children impacted annually by parental arrests and incarceration. This is one of the most vulnerable and invisible populations of children in the nation. Children of prisoners live in poverty with 56% living with an elderly relative caregiver and the other 54% living with a single parent. Approximately 58% of the children of prisoners are under 10 years of age. National studies indicate that if the problems of children of incarcerated parents are left unattended, they are five to seven times more likely to be incarcerated themselves.

Here are some of the ways you and your organization can offer support and become involved this holiday season.

- **Participate in our holiday gift drive. Bring a gift to the State Capitol, 1700 W. Washington, by Monday, December 17 or contact an organization in your area to make a donation.**
- **Become a mentor and encourage others to be mentors**
  - Mentoring is a proven positive intervention into the life of a child with an incarcerated parent. You can contact your [local Big Brother Big Sisters \(BBBS\) organizations](#), [Mentor Kids USA](#), or other mentoring programs across the state.
- **Employers can encourage staff members to volunteer to mentor children of incarcerated parents through your local [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#) and [STARS Mentoring Project](#)**
  - Considering providing employees time off during the work week to mentor. The Governor's Mentoring Initiative allows state employees one hour of flex time per week to participate in voluntary activities to support mentoring, education, and youth development in Arizona.
- **Sponsor an event with your local [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#) organization to help raise dollars to provide mentors for children of prisoners.**
  - Each one-year mentor match costs approximately \$1,000 for coordination, mentee training, mentor-mentee events, and case management.
- **Organize your own basic needs drive to collect food, clothing, and other necessities to benefit children of prisoners through your local mentoring organization.**